



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
(April 13, 2016)**

The Commission on Seniors convened in a regular meeting at Boards and Commissions, First floor in room 1101, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Dan Pruett, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

<i>Dan Pruett, Chair</i>	<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Joyce Lauck</i>	<i>Jennifer Scott</i>
<i>David Gray, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Janee Briesemeister</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Thomas McDowell</i>	<i>Peter Varteressian</i>

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

*Elaine Cohen*

**Staff in Attendance:**

Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD

The commission has a new member, Commissioner Natalie Cagle. An introduction of all the board members was made.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- None at this time.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JOINT MEETING ON MARCH 17, 2016.**

- Commissioner Jennifer Scott made a motion to accept the minutes with the revisions in the Age Friendly City section.
- Commissioner Peter Varteressian seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Presentation on the FY 2016-2017 Action Plan Process, Austin Housing Plan development, and opportunities for public participation. (Jim Padilla – Senior Research Analyst, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development)
  - To provide an overview of the process and timeline for developing the FY 2016-2017 Action Plan as well as a new Austin Housing Plan and to highlight opportunity for public participation currently going on across the city.
  - City of Austin expects to receive \$11.4 million in federal formula grant funding for 2016-2017.

- Federal requirement was to come up with a 5 year strategy plan for 2014-2019. Currently in the third action plan in a series of five.
  - Program is for low to moderate income residents. Households earning less than 80% of the median family income. For example, an 80% median family income for a household of four (4) is approximately \$62,250.
  - The four (4) formula grants are: CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. (Please refer to slides uploaded on website).
  - The funds are grouped by investment categories. They cover a range of eligible activities such as public services, financing of affordable housing, emergency shelter stays, and supportive services.
  - Expenditures by investment category are: Homeless/Special needs, Housing Developer Assistance, Renter Assistance, Commercial Revitalization, Homebuyer Assistance, Small Business Assistance, Homeowner Assistance, and Financial Empowerment.
  - A listing of the FY2016-17 Action Plan Timeline in packet. (Please refer to slides uploaded on website)
  - Two (2) complimentary initiatives that we are rolling out.
    - i. The purpose of the Community Needs Assessment is to obtain feedback from the community, residents, and stakeholders about how to refine investment priorities.
    - ii. NHCD is also working to develop a strategic Housing Plan that includes numerical targets, timelines, and strategies to build and preserve affordable housing throughout the City, as envisioned in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.
  - Housing Plan has an online survey that he will forward to the staff liaison to pass on to the board.
  - The funding and the distributions breakdown has some flexibility. There is a criteria that the staff will present to Council.
  - The draft action plan will be published on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. If the board has feedback, please keep in mind that on June 23<sup>rd</sup> the plan is presented to Council.
- B. Staff briefing on an update regarding City Council Resolution No. 20160211-017 directing the City Manager to initiate a public conversation and input process to identify and prioritize transportation projects for potential funding and to identify recommended funding options. (Marissa Monroy – Acting Public Information & Marketing Manager)
- Mike Trimble from the Planning office presented.
  - Mobility Talks is being implemented through a partnership between multiple City departments; Coordination with other public agencies; extensive communication and outreach with community organizations.
  - Community engagement could be on-line or in-person.
  - Two (2) public meetings (Mobility Talks Live) scheduled: April 20<sup>th</sup> at Crockett High School from 6-9pm; and April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Northwest Recreation Gymnasium from 2-5pm.
  - Engagement by: public hearings; conversation corps, public meetings, and mobile engagement team.

- Mobility improvements centered around four (4) community benefits: manage congestion, improve safety, improve connections in my neighborhood, and improve the quality of our streets.
- The survey is around these key benefits.
- Needs are identified in multiple ways
  - a. There are several master plans: Sidewalk Master Plan, Urban Trails Master Plan, and Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan.
  - b. Technical assessment of need
  - c. Public input processes
- Feedback will be taken to Council on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Board moved item D before C.

C. Discuss the Tax Swap Resolution. (Commissioner Janee Briesemeister)

- After some discussion, revision to the paragraph that mentions “the homes” to “their homes”.
- Commissioner Joyce Lauck made a motion to accept the letter of recommendation with the recommended revision.
- Commissioner Sally Van Sickle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0.

D. Discuss the COS Transportation Working Group Draft Recommendation. (Commissioner Martin Kareithi)

- The recommendations packet was passed to the board for discussion.
- Primary goals are that all transportation options are safe, accessible, and affordable for all people in particular older adults.
- Propose to group ideas together.
  - a. Sidewalks – pedestrian attractors
  - b. Street signage and street lighting
  - c. Evaluate and review of pedestrian signals
  - d. Improving sidewalks and crosswalks
  - e. Vision zero
- City programming and funding in PARD. Challenge is personnel and vehicle transportation. Recommendation for additional fund for PARD.
- Social service contracts – removing barriers to receive funding for transportation. Opening it up for organizations such as Drive a Senior and/or other transportation agencies.
- Prioritize places that older adults frequent that include health care facilities, clinics, nursing homes, congregate meal sites, and other pedestrian attractors in the City of Austin Public Works Sidewalk Master Plan.

- Working group will meet on Tuesday. Commissioner Martin Kareithi will revise the recommendations and take to the working group for further discussion.
  - Add item to the May's agenda.
- E. Election of Officers for May 2016 – April 2017 term.
- Commissioner Dan Pruett made a motion to elect Commissioner Janee Briesemeister as Chair. Commissioner David Gray seconded the motion.
  - Commissioner David Gray nominated Jennifer Scott as Chair. Commissioner Jennifer Scott declined at the moment due to work schedule.
  - Commissioner David Gray nominated Commissioner Peter Vartersssian for Chair. Commissioner Peter Vartersssian would refer to the first nominee Commissioner Janee Briesemiester.
    - Motion passed 12-0 for Commissioner Janee Briesemeister for Chair.
  - Commissioner Erica Garcia-Pittman made a motion to elect Commissioner Peter Vartersssian as Vice-Chair.
  - Commissioner Jennifer Scott seconded the motion.
  - Commissioner David Gray motioned to be re-elected for Vice-Chair. After some discussion Commissioner Gray agreed that new people should have that opportunity to serve.
    - Motion passed 12-0 for Commissioner Peter Vartersssian for Vice-Chair.
- F. Discuss the Joint Inclusion Committee. (Commissioner Janee Briesemeister)
- The Joint Inclusion Committee did not have a quorum. The committee was supposed to get a briefing on the -Equity office.
  - There is a May town hall meeting that Commissioner Briesemeister thought the board would be interested in attending. Commissioner Briesemeister will send the information to the staff liaison and the staff can forward to the board. Also, posting the meeting on the web as a community announcement in case there is a quorum.
- G. Discuss the Sidewalk Plan recommendations.
- Please refer to Item D of the agenda. Recommendations to be added to May's meeting agenda.
- H. Update on the Joint Meeting with Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.
- We had our first one and it went well. The common issue was the sidewalks.
- I. Update on the Senior Expo and the Eldercare Summit
- Recommend that AustinUp give a brief summary. Will inquire if they would like to do a citizen communication briefing next month.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.

- Mary Teeters mentioned that the board will need to submit the work plan in June.
- Work plan to include action items and recommendations to Council.

B. Updates from Working Groups.

- i. Transportation (Commissioners: Kareithi, Lauck, Scott, Gray, Briesemeister; and Mary Teeters)
  - a. Please refer to Item D of the agenda.
  
- ii. Age Friendly City (Commissioners Briesemeister, Van Sickle, Scott, Gray, Garcia-Pittman; Angela Attwood and Teresa Ferguson from AustinUp!; Jessica Lemann and Carla Penny from AARP; and Mary Teeters)
  - a. AARP announced the public events that are taking place to discuss the action plan. The discussions includes the 8 domains with the possibility of getting feedback on priorities and what’s missing.
  - b. Once we submit the action plan to the World Health Organization a new certificate will be issued to the City of Austin reaffirming its status as an Age Friendly City.

**5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors.

- i. Meeting next month at the South Austin Recreation Center.
- ii. Meeting in August at the Lamar Senior Center.
- iii. September’s meeting has not been scheduled yet.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Capital Metro on Para-transit.
- Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes so we don’t lose track of items discussed.
  - 1. Texas Veterans Commission
  - 2. Hispanic Quality of Life
  - 3. Veteran’s Affair Office
  - 4. State Veterans Services
  - 5. Foundation Communities
  - 6. Affordable Housing
  - 7. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
  - 8. Home renovation for seniors
  - 9. Imagine Austin
  - 10. Vision Zero

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Jennifer Scott motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner David Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.